



9

三田紀房







W-  
WELL,  
YOU  
SEE...



HOW  
DO YOU  
PLAN TO  
EXPLAIN  
THAT TO  
ME?



HAVE  
YOU NEVER  
CONCEIVED  
SOLUTIONS  
TO PHYSICAL  
PROBLEMS?



YOU...





TO  
ACTUALIZE  
THE  
IMPOSSIBLE,  
AND  
CONVERT  
IT  
INTO A  
BUSINESS...



A  
VENTURE  
IS...

...TO  
ACTUALIZE THE  
IMPOSSIBLE,  
AND CONVERT  
IT INTO A  
BUSINESS.



...YOU TAKE  
ON THE  
CHALLENGE  
AND MAKE IT  
HAPPEN.  
THAT'S  
WHAT A  
VENTURE IS.

EVEN IF  
FOLKS SAY  
SOMETHING  
CAN'T BE  
DONE OR  
THAT IT'S  
JUST A PIPE  
DREAM.



PRODUCTS  
WILL SELL  
EXPLOSIVELY.  
ENORMOUS  
PROFIT WILL  
BE MADE, AND  
YOUR  
BUSINESS  
WILL BE A  
HUGE  
SUCCESS.

AND WHEN THE  
INCONCEIVABLE  
FINALLY  
HAPPENS,  
THAT'S WHEN  
PEOPLE ARE  
SHOCKED, AND  
JUMP ALL  
OVER IT.



YOU  
CAN  
FORGET  
ABOUT  
YOUR  
IDEA.



IF YOU'RE  
THE KIND  
WHO DECIDES  
SOMETHING IS  
IMPOSSIBLE AND  
GIVES UP BEFORE  
TAKING ON THE  
CHALLENGE, YOU  
ARE UNQUALIFIED  
TO START A  
VENTURE.



SO  
NAKAGAWA-  
SAN STAYED  
BEHIND ON  
THE GRASSY  
HILL HE'S  
SPENDING THE  
NIGHT IN A  
TENT, AND  
WILL START  
MOWING AT  
THE CRACK  
OF DAWN.



BUT NO  
MATTER HOW  
YOU LOOK  
AT IT, IT'S  
PHYSICALLY  
IMPOSSIBLE  
FOR HIM TO  
MOW ALL THE  
GRASS ON  
THAT HILL  
ALONE.



I'M  
EXTREMELY  
CURIOUS.

WILL  
NAKAGAWA-  
SAN COME  
UP WITH A  
WORKABLE  
SCHEME?







I'LL  
FIGURE OUT  
A ROUGH  
ESTIMATE  
USING THE  
LENGTH OF  
MY ARM AND  
FINGER.

NOW  
I'LL FIGURE  
OUT THE  
PERCENTAGE  
OF THE AREA  
I MOWED



ONE  
WHOLE  
DAY WILL  
COVER  
ONLY  
18.2%.



THIS  
WON'T  
WORK...  
THAT'S  
NOT EVEN  
HALF...



BUT IF I DID  
THAT, I'D  
LOSE STEAM  
IN THE DAY.  
I'D BETTER  
REST UP  
INSTEAD.



I'D GET  
ABOUT  
25%  
DONE IF  
I DID.

MAYBE  
I'LL WORK  
THROUGH  
THE NIGHT.



IT'S  
ABSOLUTELY  
IMPOSSIBLE  
TO DO IN A  
SINGLE DAY.

TRULY...  
THIS  
CAN'T BE  
DONE.



I  
NEED A  
SHORT  
BREAK.

MY HIPS  
ARE  
ABOUT  
TO GIVE  
OUT.



MAYBE HE'S  
EXPECTING  
ME TO FIND  
SOMEONE TO  
HELP ME DO  
THE JOB.  
BUT HOW...?

BUT HORIE-SAN  
DIDN'T SAY I  
HAD TO MOW IT  
ALL ALONE.



THIS  
IS MY  
LIFELINE  
FROM  
HEAVEN!

EXCUSE  
ME!











FEELINGS,  
NOT  
REASON..



INTERESTING  
RESULTS ARE  
NOT MADE  
OUT OF  
REASON..



YOU  
COULD  
CALL IT  
INSPIRATION..



...THEY'RE  
MADE OUT  
OF  
FEELINGS..



...YOU HAVE  
TO SHARE  
YOUR  
ENTHUSIASM  
WITH  
COLLEAGUES..

IF YOU  
WANT TO  
ROCK THE  
WORLD  
WITH A  
VENTURE..



IF YOU  
WANT TO  
ROCK THE  
WORLD  
WITH A  
VENTURE..



THIS IS  
STUPID...  
I'M  
QUITTING.



I CAN'T  
COVER ENOUGH  
GROUND IN  
TIME. THIS IS  
POINTLESS.



I'LL  
HANG IN  
THERE A  
LITTLE  
LONGER...

I'LL  
DO A  
LITTLE  
MORE.



...THE  
AMOUNT  
OF AREA I  
HAVE TO  
MOW  
WON'T  
CHANGE.

BUT NO  
MATTER  
HOW HARD  
I WORK...



I WOULDN'T  
BE ABLE TO  
FORGIVE  
MYSELF IF I  
GIVE UP.

BUT I  
DON'T  
WANT TO  
GIVE UP  
WITHOUT  
GOING  
ALL THE  
WAY.



YOU'RE  
STILL  
AT IT?

WHAT  
THE  
HECK?



YEAH.









...BUT WE  
MUST  
ENDEAVOR  
DOUBLY  
MORE AT  
FIRST.

WE ENDEAVOR  
TOGETHER  
WITH OUR  
COLLEAGUES...

TRULY...

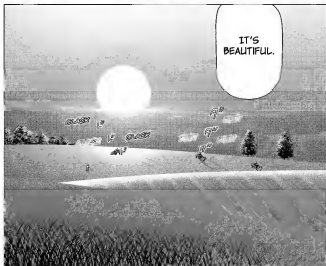
THANK  
YOU!

ALL  
RIGHT.

I'LL DO  
YOUR  
SIDE.  
IT'LL BE  
A CINC.

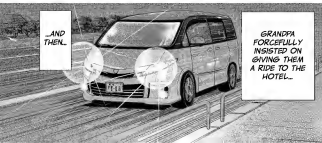
...THANK  
YOU VERY  
MUCH!











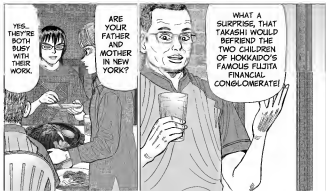


...THEY  
SOMESHOW GOT  
INVITED TO  
DINNER WITH US  
AT GRANDPA'S  
HOME. THE  
SITUATION MADE  
ME EXTREMELY  
NERVOUS.



YES,  
VERY.

THIS IS  
AUTHENTIC  
MONGOLIAN  
BARBECUE.  
ISN'T IT  
GOOD?



YES...  
THEY'RE  
BOTH  
BUSY  
WITH  
THEIR  
WORK.

ARE  
YOUR  
FATHER  
AND  
MOTHER  
IN NEW  
YORK?

WHAT A  
SURPRISE, THAT  
TAKASHI WOULD  
BEFRIEND THE  
TWO CHILDREN  
OF HOKKAIDO'S  
FAMOUS FUJITA  
FINANCIAL  
CONGLOMERATE!



MY MOTHER  
MANAGES AN  
ART GALLERY  
FEATURING  
MODERN ART.  
OUR PARENTS  
WANT US TO BE  
INDEPENDENT, SO  
THEY LEAVE US  
FREE TO DO  
WHATEVER  
WE LIKE.



OUR  
FATHER IS A  
VIOLINIST. HE  
SOMETIMES  
PLAYS IN AN  
ORCHESTRA,  
SOMETIMES  
TEACHES AT  
A MUSIC  
ACADEMY.



SO FAR  
FROM YOUR  
PARENTS...  
YOU MUST  
FEEL SO  
LONELY.



MY SISTER  
HAS BEEN  
ATTENDING  
TOKYO'S  
KEI-IN  
ACADEMY  
SINCE HER  
RETURN TO  
JAPAN.



WHAT  
DO YOU  
BUY AND  
SELL?



MY  
BROTHER  
ISN'T  
AROUND  
TO NAG ME  
EITHER, SO  
THERE'S  
NOTHING  
TO CRAMP  
MY STYLE.

I HAVE  
GRANDPA  
AND MY  
FRIENDS,  
SO I'M  
NOT  
LONELY  
AT ALL.



I  
ALWAYS  
THINK  
ABOUT IT  
FIRST!



I NAG  
BECAUSE  
YOU BUY  
AND SELL  
WILLY-  
NILLY.



STOCKS?



STOCKS.



PLEASE  
LET IT  
STOP.

DON'T  
GET HIM  
STARTED...



OH, IT'S  
JUST SMALL  
INVEST-  
MENTS, LIKE  
A CHILD'S  
POCKET  
MONEY'S  
WORTH.



...THE FUJITA  
HOUSEHOLD  
HAS  
BUILT ITS  
WEALTH BY  
INVESTING  
IN VARIOUS  
KINDS OF  
INDUSTRIES.



AS YOU  
ALL  
KNOW...

"YES,  
OF  
COURSE.







I DO... I  
DISAPPROVE  
OF ANYONE  
WHO GOES  
AGAINST  
SOCIAL CON-  
VENTION, NOT  
JUST HIM.



DON'T  
PROVOKE  
HIM!



DO  
YOU DIS-  
APPROVE  
OF HORIE-  
SAN?



HE'S  
NOTHING  
BUT FACADE  
WITHOUT  
SUBSTANCE.  
I FIND  
PEOPLE  
LIKE THAT  
OBNOXIOUS.



PEOPLE HAVE  
DRUMMED HIM AS A  
HERO OF THE TIMES,  
BUT HE'S JUST A  
MONEY-GRUBBER.  
HE GOT INTERESTED  
IN THE MONEY  
GAME, THEN MADE  
A FORTUNE.



NO... MY  
INTUITION  
IS OFTEN  
RIGHT ON  
THE MARK.



YOU'VE JUST  
SWALLOWED  
THE MEDIA  
SMEAR  
AGAINST HIM,  
HOOK, LINE,  
AND SINKER.



I MET HIM  
FOR THE FIRST  
TIME SEVERAL  
DAYS AGO.  
WE HAD DINNER  
TOGETHER,  
AND I DIDN'T  
GET ANY  
NEGATIVE  
IMPRESSION  
ABOUT HIM  
AT ALL.



CRAP!  
CRAP...





OH, OF COURSE! SINCE YOU LIVE IN THE U.S., YOU PROBABLY DON'T GET MUCH OF A CHANCE TO SEE THINGS LIKE THAT.





YEAH.



YOUR DAD... HE'S ENTRENCHED IN CONVENTION, SCRUPULOUS ABOUT MONEY...



WELL, HIS FATHER, MY GRANDFATHER, WAS A PHYSICIST. BLOODLINES DON'T DETERMINE THINGS LIKE THAT, RIGHT?





SAME KIND  
OF THING?  
SAME KIND  
OF THING  
AS WHAT?



THAT  
MAYBE...  
YOU  
MIGHT DO  
THE SAME  
KIND OF  
THING.



...WAS  
RESPONSIBLE  
FOR STARTING  
THE PACIFIC  
WAR BETWEEN  
JAPAN AND  
THE U.S.

I HEARD  
RYU-  
GORO...



...BETWEEN  
JAPAN AND  
THE U.S.?

HE  
STARTED  
THE  
WAR...



...FROM  
FUJITA  
KANESHICHI!

HE  
TOOK THE  
OPPORTUNITY  
AND STOLE 15  
MILLION YEN...  
50 BILLION  
YEN IN  
TODAY'S  
CURRENCY...



F-FROM  
KANE-  
SHICHI?!

F-FIFTY  
BILLION  
YEN!



TAKASHI-  
KUN...

I CAN'T  
BELIEVE HE  
STARTED A  
WAR AND  
STOLE 50  
BILLION  
YEN...

TH...  
THAT'S  
RIDICU-  
LOUS...







THAT  
WOULD  
SATISFY  
BOTH  
CONDITIONS.

IN THAT CASE,  
YOU COULD  
BECOME THE  
FUJITA HOUSE-  
HOLD'S IN-HOUSE  
TRADER, AND KEEP  
TRADING UNTIL  
YOU YIELD A  
PROFIT OF  
50 BILLION.



AND THE  
50 BILLION  
DEBT... I  
OUTRIGHT  
REFUSE TO  
BE HELD  
RESPONSIBLE  
FOR IT!



BUT  
THAT'S IF  
I FAILED.  
IF I SUCCEED,  
THERE'S NO  
HARM OR  
FOUL.



CAN THAT  
STORY BE  
DESCRIBED  
ACCURATELY,  
IN DETAIL?

BESIDES, DID  
RYUSORO  
REALLY STEAL  
15 MILLION  
YEN FROM  
KANESHICHI?



WHAT  
IS IT?

WHAT?  
PROOF?



SURE.  
I CAN  
PROVE IT  
TO YOU.





THIS IS  
RYUGORO.

THE  
ELDERLY  
MAN  
IN THE  
MIDDLE IS  
PROBABLY  
KANE-  
SHICHI.



THEY'RE...





...AND  
YAMAMOTO  
ISOROKU



RYOGORO,  
KANESHICHI.

LET'S  
TRAVEL  
BACK IN  
TIME TO  
JANUARY  
6, 1941.

WHAT  
DID THE  
THREE OF  
THEM  
DISCUSS?







I AM  
FUJITA,  
KANE-  
SHICHI.



I AM  
VERY  
GLAD TO  
MEET  
YOU.

MY  
NAME IS  
YAMA-  
MOTO  
ISO-  
ROKU.



YES. I  
HAVE A  
FAVOR TO  
ASK OF  
YOU,  
VENERABLE  
KANESHICHI.

FOR THE  
COMMANDER-  
IN-CHIEF OF THE  
COMBINED FLEET  
TO COME IN A  
SUIT TO SEE ME,  
I FIGURE THE  
MATTER IS  
OF SOME  
CONFIDENTIALITY.



HOW DID  
YOU MEET  
EACH  
OTHER?

I DIDN'T  
KNOW YOU  
WERE  
FRIENDS  
WITH A MAN  
LIKE THIS,  
RYUGORO-  
KUN.



HE CAME TO  
ME FIRST,  
BUT I KNEW  
HE SHOULD  
DISCUSS IT  
WITH YOU,  
LORD  
KANESHICHI,  
SO I  
BROUGHT  
HIM HERE.





YAMAMOTO-SAN WAS THE NAVAL ATTACHE TO THE JAPANESE EMBASSY. I WAS STUDYING ECONOMICS IN NEW YORK AT THE TIME.

I MET YAMAMOTO-SAN IN AMERICA.



IT WAS YAMA-MOTO-SAN.

I WAS PLAYING POKER AT A BAR, AND A JAPANESE MAN CAME TO THE TABLE.



YAMAMOTO-SAN WAS AN AVID GAMBLER. WE'D ALSO PLAY BACCARAT AND BACKGAMMON TILL THE BREAK OF DAWN, DAY AFTER DAY.

WE PLAYED POKER TOGETHER OFTEN.



YOU'D NEVER MISS A WINNING OPPORTUNITY. YOU'RE MILITARY MAN THROUGH AND THROUGH.

OH, COME ON, YAMA-MOTO-SAN!

HE'S TAKEN ME FOR A BUNDLE SEVERAL TIMES. I WON'T FORGET THE ANGLISH.

ZAIZEN-KUN IS A FINE PLAYER. EVEN THE AMERICAN LOCALS COULDN'T BEAT HIM.



YOU TWO SEEM TO GET ALONG FAMOUSLY.

YOU MUST'VE SHARED FUN TIMES TOGETHER.



ARE YOU IN SOME KIND OF SOME OF TROUBLE?

SO WHY WOULD THE INVESTING GENIUS AND COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE COMBINED FLEET COME VISIT THIS OLD MAN?



OUR NATION IS IN DANGER.



THERE  
IS STILL A  
POSSIBILITY  
OF AVOIDING  
IT, DEPENDING  
ON HOW WE  
NEGOTIATE.



IS THAT  
WHAT  
YOU  
MEAN?

OF  
COURSE.  
WE'RE  
ABOUT TO  
GO TO  
WAR WITH  
THE U.S.



THERE  
SEEMS  
TO BE NO  
WAY TO  
STOP IT.

BUT  
BRIDGING  
THE JAPAN-  
U.S. GAP IS  
A VERY  
DIFFICULT  
MATTER.



IT  
BREAKS  
MY  
HEART.



MANY  
YOUNG  
MEN ARE  
GOING  
TO DIE..  
AGAIN.

SO WE'RE  
FINALLY  
GOING  
AT IT.



WE HAVE  
MADE  
OURSELVES  
DECISIVE  
ENEMIES OF  
THE U.S.  
AND GREAT  
BRITAIN.

SIGNING THE  
TRIPARTITE  
PACT WITH  
GERMANY  
AND ITALY  
WAS OUR  
BIGGEST  
MISTAKE.



JAPAN, OF  
COURSE, WILL  
OPPOSE THIS.  
THE PUBLIC WILL  
GET RILED UP,  
PROPAGANDA  
WILL PREVAIL,  
AND THE NATION  
WILL RUSH  
HEADLONG  
INTO WAR.

THE U.S.  
WILL NEVER  
COMPROMISE  
WITH JAPAN;  
THEY WILL  
AGGRESSIVELY  
DEMAND  
CONCILIATION.



I'M NOT  
SURE  
THEY'D  
BE SO  
RECKLESS.

BUT THE U.S.  
IS ALREADY  
LOSING THE WAR  
AGAINST EUROPE.  
IF THEY START  
A WAR WITH US,  
THEY'LL BE  
GETTING  
THEMSELVES  
INVOLVED IN A  
DOUBLE WAR.



WHY  
DO YOU  
SAY  
THAT?

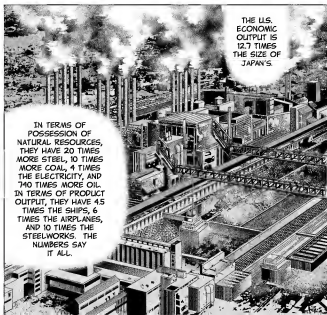


THE U.S.  
WILL  
MOST  
DEFINITELY  
TAKE THE  
PLUNGE.



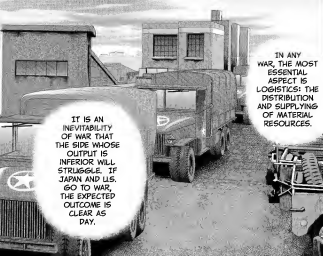
OBJECTIVELY  
ANALYZING  
JAPANESE  
AND U.S.  
POWER,  
THEY'LL  
KNOW THEY  
HAVE  
SUFFICIENT  
LEVERAGE  
OVER US.

BECAUSE  
OF THEIR  
OVER-  
WHELMING  
DIFFERENCE  
IN NATIONAL  
POWER.



IN TERMS OF  
POSSESSION OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES,  
THEY HAVE 20 TIMES  
MORE STEEL, 10 TIMES  
MORE COAL, 4 TIMES  
THE ELECTRICITY, AND  
740 TIMES MORE OIL.  
IN TERMS OF PRODUCT  
OUTPUT, THEY HAVE 4.5  
TIMES THE SHIPS, 6  
TIMES THE AIRPLANES,  
AND 10 TIMES THE  
STEELWORKS. THE  
NUMBERS SAY  
IT ALL.

THE U.S.  
ECONOMIC  
OUTPUT IS  
12.7 TIMES  
THE SIZE OF  
JAPAN'S.



IT IS AN  
INEVITABILITY  
OF WAR THAT  
THE SIDE WHOSE  
OUTPUT IS  
INFERIOR WILL  
STRUGGLE. IF  
JAPAN AND U.S.  
GO TO WAR,  
THE EXPECTED  
OUTCOME IS  
CLEAR AS  
DAY.

IN ANY  
WAR, THE MOST  
ESSENTIAL  
ASPECT IS  
LOGISTICS: THE  
DISTRIBUTION  
AND SUPPLYING  
OF MATERIAL  
RESOURCES.



AN  
ANT...

WHY  
WOULD  
YOU GO TO  
WAR, THEN,  
IF YOU  
KNOW  
THAT?



IT  
WOULD  
BE LIKE  
AN ANT  
GOING  
UP  
AGAINST  
AN ELE-  
PHANT.

IF JAPAN  
CLASHES  
WITH THE  
U.S., WE  
WILL GET  
CRUSHED.



NOPE...  
YOU'RE  
WRONG.



WE'RE  
ON A  
RUNAWAY  
TRAIN,  
WITH NO  
WAY TO  
STOP IT.

THAT'S  
JUST IT.



YAMAMOTO-  
SAN. I TOO  
RECEIVE  
MILITARY  
INFORMATION.

MY UNDER-  
STANDING IS  
THAT YOU ARE  
THE CENTRAL  
FIGURE  
AMONG  
THE NAVY  
GENERAL  
STAFF  
CHAMPIONING  
PACIFISM.  
WHY ARE YOU  
NOW SIDING  
WITH THE WAR-  
MONSERS?



WELL...



THERE  
MUST  
BE A  
REASON.



...DEvised  
AN ALL-OR-  
NOTHING PLAN  
TO DEFEAT THE  
U.S. MILITARY.  
AM I RIGHT?

YAMA-  
MOTO-  
SAN, YOU  
MUST  
HAVE...



YOU  
MUST HAVE A  
REVOLUTIONARY  
IDEA, THE FIRST  
OF ITS KIND  
IN MILITARY  
HISTORY.

NO  
MILITARY  
MAN TAKES  
ACTION  
WITHOUT  
A PLAN.







I WANT TO TRY IT.









...WE WILL  
LAUNCH A  
SURPRISE ATTACK  
ON THE U.S.  
NAVAL FLEET  
STATIONED IN  
PEARL HARBOR  
ON THE ISLAND  
OF OAHU, HAWAII.

AT THE  
SAME  
TIME WE  
START  
THE  
WAR...



A  
SURPRISE  
ATTACK  
ON PEARL  
HARBOR?

HAWAII?



THEN WE  
WILL DESTROY  
THE U.S. PACIFIC  
FLEET IN A NAVAL  
BATTLE. ONCE  
THEY'VE BEEN  
DEMORALIZED,  
WE WILL ENGAGE  
THEM IN PEACE  
TALKS TO  
SWIFTLY END  
THE WAR.

IT WILL BE AN  
AERIAL ATTACK  
ON THE U.S.  
FLEET. BY SO  
DOING, WE  
WILL PUT A  
STOP TO THE  
BATTLE IN THE  
WEST PACIFIC.



THERE IS  
NO OTHER  
RECOURSE  
FOR  
JAPAN TO  
SURVIVE.



I WONDER  
IF IT'LL  
GO THAT  
SMOOTHLY.



SWIFTLY  
END THE  
WAR, HUH.



WELL,  
THERE'S  
NO  
SENSE IN  
SCOLDING  
YOU.



MILITARY  
MEN ALWAYS  
SAY THAT.  
BUT NEVER  
ONCE HAVE  
THEY BEEN  
RIGHT.



I AM  
MUCH  
HUMBLED.

THAT'S HOW  
WE GOT STUCK  
IN QUICKSAND  
WITH THE WAR  
AGAINST RUSSIA,  
AND NOW  
AGAINST CHINA.  
THEY SAID AT  
FIRST THAT  
THREE MONTHS  
SHOULD SETTLE  
THE WARS, BUT  
LOOK WHAT  
HAPPENED.



FIRST OF  
ALL, OUR  
BOMBERS  
CAN'T FLY  
THAT FAR  
AND BACK.



NEVERTHELESS,  
AT THIS STAGE,  
TAKING THE  
INITIATIVE TO  
ATTACK HAWAII  
WOULD BE AN ACT  
OF INSANITY.







...MEETS  
UP WITH U.S.  
RECONNAIS-  
SANCE ON  
THEIR WAY  
SOUTHWARD?

BUT WHAT  
I WANT TO  
KNOW IS...  
WHAT IF  
THE TASK  
FORCE...



WE WILL  
ORGANIZE  
THE TASK  
FORCE  
FORMATION  
TO MAKE IT  
SEEM LIKE  
A DRILL..



OH?



IT'LL BE  
A DRILL  
MANEUVER.



WHAT IS  
THAT?



HOWEVER,  
THE  
JAPANESE  
NAVY  
HAS AN  
ACHILLES'S  
HEEL.



THE U.S.  
NAVY HAS BEEN  
PERFORMING  
THE SAME  
KINDS OF  
DRILLS IN  
THE SEA OF  
OKHOTSK.  
THE ENEMY  
WON'T  
SUSPECT A  
THING.





OIL?



IT'S  
OIL.



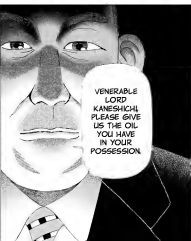
WE NEED  
OIL FROM A  
SOURCE  
THE U.S. IS  
UNWARE  
OF.



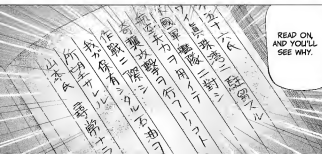
THAT'S WHAT  
WE NEED FOR  
THE ATTACK  
ON PEARL  
HARBOR TO  
SUCCEED.



MY...  
OIL?



VENERABLE  
LORD  
KANESHICHI!  
PLEASE GIVE  
US THE OIL  
YOU HAVE  
IN YOUR  
POSSESSION.



Journal:  
"Yamamoto Isoroku desires to receive oil in my possession for a surprise attack on the U.S. military and naval fleet stationed in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii"





WHY  
DO  
ALL  
THAT?





THE  
ARMY HAS  
12 MILLION  
KILOLITERS, THE  
NAVY HAS 9.7  
MILLION KILOLI-  
TERS... THERE  
ARE 0.7 MILLION  
KILOLITERS  
RESERVED FOR  
CIVILIAN USE.

NEEDLESS  
TO SAY, 80%  
OF THE OIL  
IN JAPAN IS  
IMPORTED  
FROM THE U.S.  
RIGHT NOW.



ALSO, OUR  
PETROLEUM  
COMPANIES ARE ALL  
FOREIGN-INVEST-  
ED: THE TWO OIL  
COMPANIES WITH  
OVERWHELMING  
SHARES ARE  
STANDARD-VACUUM  
OIL OF THE U.S.  
AND THE DUTCH-UK  
COMPANY RISING  
SUN PETROLEUM.



THERE IS A  
POSSIBILITY  
THAT OUR  
MILITARY  
STRATEGY  
WILL LEAK  
TO THE  
ENEMY IF  
THEY LOOK  
AT OUR OIL  
SUPPLIES.

IN OTHER  
WORDS, THE  
QUANTITY OF  
OUR SUPPLY  
IS EASILY  
CALCULABLE BY  
CHECKING OUR  
MERCHANDISE  
LEDGERS.



U.S. AND  
BRITISH  
SPIES HAVE  
INFILTRATED  
US.  
ESPIONAGE  
IS RAMPANT.

THAT  
MIGHT  
NOT BE  
ENOUGH.



WE SUPPLIERS  
STRINGENTLY  
GUARD OUR  
INFORMATION.



NOW,  
LET US  
SUPPOSE  
ANOTHER  
SCENARIO.



SO IF WE  
DEPLOYED A  
TASK FORCE  
TO HITOKAPPU  
BAY AND  
CONCURRENTLY  
TRANSPORTED  
JET FUEL...



...THEY MIGHT  
EASILY DEDUCE  
THAT OUR  
TARGET IS  
HAWAII BY  
WAY OF  
CALCULATING  
FLIGHT  
DISTANCE  
AND FUEL  
CONSUMPTION.



...WE  
ACQUIRE  
JET FUEL  
FROM FUJITA  
MERCANTILE,  
TRANSPORT IT  
TO HITOKAPPU  
BAY, AND STORE  
IT THERE.



IN ORDER  
TO MAINTAIN  
SECRECY  
OF OUR  
SURPRISE  
ATTACK  
MISSION  
TO PEARL  
HARBOR...



BY DOING SO,  
THE ENEMY WILL  
ASSUME WE  
ONLY HAVE  
ENOUGH OIL  
FOR DRILL  
MANEUVERS.

WE WILL  
LOAD ONLY  
A SMALL  
QUANTITY  
OF FUEL,  
INSUFFICIENT  
FOR AIRCRAFT  
CARRIERS, WHEN  
WE MOVE OUR  
TASK FORCE  
FLEET TO  
ITURUP  
ISLAND.



THUS AFTER  
THE SURPRISE  
ATTACK TO  
END THE  
WAR, WE WILL  
CELEBRATE  
OUR VICTORY.

WHEN THE  
TIMING IS RIGHT,  
WE WILL LOAD  
THE OIL SECRETLY  
STORED AT THE  
NAVAL PORT ONTO  
THE AIRCRAFT  
CARRIERS, AND  
THEN SET OUT  
FOR ATTACK.

THERE IS  
A LOGIC  
TO IT...

I SEE.

SUCH  
IS THE  
PLANNED  
COURSE OF  
ACTION.

TRUE.

IT IS  
POSSIBLE  
TO HIDE  
THE MER-  
CHANDISE  
BY  
FALSIFYING  
PAYMENT  
VOUCHERS.

WE HAVE  
PLENTY  
OF TIME  
TO  
PREPARE.

PERHAPS  
INFORMATION  
MIGHT LEAK  
FROM OUR  
COMPANY.

BUT  
STANDARD  
OIL IS OUR  
COMPANY'S  
SUPPLIER,  
TOO.



HMM...



PLEASE.

PLEASE  
LEND US A  
HAND FOR  
THE SAKE  
OF THE  
JAPANESE  
NAVY'S  
VICTORY.



IS IT  
POSSIBLE  
TO SINK HUGE  
BATTLESHIPS JUST  
BY DROPPING  
BOMBS ON THEM  
FROM SMALL  
AIRPLANES?  
I CAN'T IMAGINE  
A STRATEGY  
LIKE THAT.

BUT THERE'S  
SOMETHING  
I DON'T  
UNDERSTAND.



WE ARE  
NOW  
IN THE  
AGE OF  
AIRPLANES.

THAT  
KIND OF  
BATTLE  
OF NAVAL  
FLEETS  
WILL  
NEVER  
HAPPEN  
AGAIN.



ISN'T IT  
STANDARD  
TO HAVE A  
SHOOTOUT  
BETWEEN  
FLEETS OF  
BATTLESHIPS,  
AND THE SIDE  
WITH MORE  
FIREPOWER  
WINS?





THAT IS  
THE WAR  
OF THE  
FUTURE.

THE SIDE  
THAT WILL WIN IS  
THE SIDE THAT  
PROTECTS ITS  
AIRSPACE WITH  
MORE AIRCRAFT  
CARRIERS AND AIR  
FORCE POWER.



IF WE  
EMPLOY  
OUTMODDED  
BATTLE  
STRATEGIES,  
OUR DEFEAT IS  
GUARANTEED,  
AND OUR  
NATION WILL  
ASSUREDLY BE  
DESTROYED.

IF WE REMAIN  
STUCK WITH  
ORTHODOX  
IDEAS OF BIG  
FLEETS AND  
BIG CANONS,  
WE WILL NOT  
SURVIVE THE  
NEW AGE.



...TOR-  
PEDOES

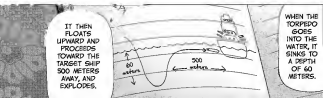
FOR  
EXAMPLE...



WE ARE  
DEVELOPING  
NEW  
TECHNOLOGY  
FOR USHERING  
IN THE  
NEW WAR.

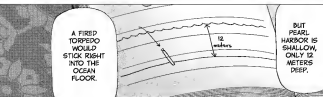


NORMALLY,  
A TORPEDO  
BOMBER WILL  
SHOOT A  
TORPEDO  
FROM A  
DISTANCE OF  
1000 METERS  
AND HEIGHT  
OF 50 TO 150  
METERS.



IT THEN  
FLOATS  
UPWARD AND  
PROCEEDS  
TOWARD THE  
TARGET SHIP  
500 METERS  
AWAY, AND  
EXPLODES.

WHEN THE  
TORPEDO  
GOES  
INTO THE  
WATER, IT  
SINKS TO  
A DEPTH  
OF 60  
METERS.



A FIRED  
TORPEDO  
WOULD  
STICK RIGHT  
INTO THE  
OCEAN  
FLOOR.

BUT  
PEARL  
HARBOR IS  
SHALLOW,  
ONLY 12  
METERS  
DEEP.



AS SOON  
AS IT HITS  
THE WATER,  
THE FIRST  
OF ITS KIND  
IN THE  
WORLD.

TO  
SOLVE THIS  
PROBLEM,  
WE WILL BE  
DEVELOPING  
A TORPEDO  
THAT GOES  
STRAIGHT  
TO ITS  
TARGET.



FROM  
LAND?



...I WANT  
THE ATTACK  
TO COME  
FROM LAND  
INSTEAD  
OF THE  
OCEAN.

ALSO... IN  
ORDER TO  
PERFECT  
OUR  
STRATEGY...



WHICH  
MEANS  
THE  
ENEMY  
WILL BE  
THINKING  
THAT, AS  
WELL.

YOU  
MIGHT  
VERY  
WELL  
THINK  
THAT.



LAND  
WOULD  
MAKE NO  
SENSE.

IF YOU'RE  
ATTACKING  
WITH  
TORPEDOES,  
THERE'S NO  
CHOICE BUT TO  
ATTACK FROM  
THE SEA.



IF WE  
ATTACK THEM  
FROM SEA,  
WE'D BE IN  
PLAIN SIGHT;  
THE ENEMY  
WOULD HAVE  
PLENTY OF  
TIME TO  
PREPARE FOR  
COUNTER-  
ATTACK.

TAKING  
ADVANTAGE  
OF THEIR  
IGNORANCE IS  
THE MOST  
IMPORTANT  
ASPECT  
OF THIS  
SURPRISE  
ATTACK.



IF WE  
IMPLEMENT  
THAT STRATEGY,  
THE ENEMY WILL  
BE THROWN INTO  
CONFUSION,  
AND AN OVER-  
WHELMING  
VICTORY WILL  
BE OURS.

BUT THEY  
WOULD  
NEVER  
EXPECT AN  
AIR RAID TO  
COME FROM  
THE LAND  
BEHIND  
THEIR NAVAL  
PORT.



THE  
DISTANCE FROM  
THEIR DOCKED  
BATTLESHIPS  
TO THE SHORE  
IS VERY  
SHORT.

BUT... IS IT  
POSSIBLE  
TO FIRE  
TORPEDOES  
FROM LAND,  
COMMANDER?



OUR AIR  
FORCE  
WILL BE  
RIGOROUSLY  
TRAINED  
TO SHOOT  
TORPEDOES  
INTO THAT  
NARROW  
OPENING.

THE SPACE  
BETWEEN THE  
SHORE AND  
BATTLESHIPS  
IS APPROXI-  
MATELY  
500 METERS,  
A TIGHT  
FIT FOR A  
TORPEDO  
ATTACK.





...I WILL NOT  
COMPLY  
WITH YOUR  
WISH.

I MUST  
INFORM  
YOU  
THAT...



BUT I  
COULD NOT  
DIE IN PEACE IF  
I HAD A HAND  
IN SENDING  
MULTITUDES OF  
YOUNG MEN  
TO THEIR  
GRAVES BEFORE  
I WENT DOWN  
TO MINE.

I AM OLD.  
I MIGHT  
NOT EVEN  
SEE  
TOMORROW.





"I AM  
GOING TO  
ESTABLISH  
A SCHOOL."

I DECIDED  
WITH FIRM RESOLVE  
TO EDUCATE CHILDREN  
WHO HAD THE DESIRE  
TO LEARN, TO NURTURE  
COMPETENT YOUTH TO  
SHOULDER JAPAN'S  
FUTURE, EVEN IF THEY  
WERE FROM POOR  
HOUSEHOLDS. I  
WANTED THE SCHOOL  
TO BE TUITION FREE.



I SUCCEEDED  
IN ESTABLISHING  
AN INSTITUTION  
THAT PRODUCED  
MANY PEOPLE  
WHO BECAME  
SUCCESSFUL  
IN SERVING  
OUR NATION.

MY DREAM  
CAME TRUE.  
OUTSTANDING  
STUDENTS  
LEFT THEIR  
NESTS AT  
DOJUKU, AND  
SPREAD THEIR  
WINGS  
TOWARD  
SOCIETY.



THAT VERY  
THOUGHT IS  
GRIEVOUS  
TO ME.

BUT NOW,  
THESE  
STUDENTS  
ARE  
GETTING  
SENT  
TO THE  
ARMY AND  
NAVY.





BUT I DO  
NOT WANT MY  
CHILDREN AT  
DOJUKU TO  
DIE ON THE  
BATTLEFIELD.

YAMAMO-  
TO-SAN...  
FORGIVE ME  
FOR SAYING  
THIS.



I SEE.



CERTAINLY.  
I WOULD BE  
HONORED.



...BUT I  
WANT YOU  
TO TAKE A  
PHOTOGRAPH  
WITH ME.  
THINK OF IT  
AS A GIFT  
FOR ME TO  
TAKE TO THE  
AFTERLIFE.

NOW, I REALIZE  
I AM BEING  
PRESUMPTUOUS  
AFTER HAVING  
REFUSED TO  
COMPLY WITH  
YOUR WISH.



NO... IT'S  
NOT YOUR  
FAULT. IT'S  
DUE TO MY  
OWN LACK  
OF MORAL  
VIRTUE.

YAMAMOTO-  
SAN... I'M  
SORRY  
IT DIDN'T  
PAN OUT.

THERE  
MUST BE  
OTHER WAYS.  
LET'S GO  
BACK TO THE  
DRAWING  
BOARD.

I'M NOT  
GIVING  
UP JUST  
YET.

I AM  
TRULY  
SORRY.

I TOOK  
YOU TO  
LORD  
KANESHIKI  
BELIEVING  
HE WOULD  
DEFINITELY  
LEND  
YOU HIS  
SUPPORT.





THAT IS MY  
WILL, AND I  
WILL HOLD  
ON TO IT  
UNTIL THE  
VERY END.



TO  
PROTECT  
OUR  
NATION, TO  
PROTECT  
JAPAN.



I, TOO, HAVE  
THE WILL TO  
MAKE JAPAN AN  
ECONOMICALLY  
PROSPEROUS  
NATION.

I WILL  
NEVER  
FORGET  
YOUR  
WORDS,  
YAMAMOTO-  
SAN.



YES... FOR  
CERTAIN.

ZAIZEN-  
KUN...  
LET'S MEET  
AGAIN, IN  
JAPAN.





YOU,  
ZAIZEN-  
KUN?  
BUT  
HOW?



I WILL  
SUPPLY  
IT FOR  
YOU.

THAT OIL  
YOU NEED,  
YAMAMOTO-  
SAN.



...THEN  
MINE IS  
FROM THE  
FINANCIAL  
ABILITY.

IF YOUR  
STRENGTH  
IS FROM  
THE FORCE  
OF ARMS,



I WILL GET  
IT FOR YOU  
WITH THE  
POWER OF  
INVESTING.



FINANCES...  
YOU CAN  
GET OIL  
BY THE  
POWER OF  
INVESTING?



PLEASE  
LEAVE  
IT TO  
ME.

I WILL  
GET THE  
QUANTITY OF  
OIL THAT  
YOU NEED,  
YAMAMOTO-  
SAN.



BUT  
HOW?

I CAN'T  
IMAGINE  
HOW YOU  
COULD  
DO THAT,  
ZAIZEN-  
KUN.



KANESHICHI'S  
LAST ENTRY  
SAYS THEY  
TOOK A  
PHOTO AND  
PARTED  
WAYS.



BUT THE  
ATTACK  
ON PEARL  
HARBOR  
WENT  
FORWARD.



COMMANDER  
YAMAMOTO  
ISOROKU'S  
REQUEST  
WAS DENIED.



BUT  
HOW?



WHICH  
MEANS  
ISOROKU  
MUST'VE  
GOTTEN  
THE OIL HE  
WANTED.



SO I DID A  
PERSONAL  
INVESTIGA-  
TION OF  
THE FUJITA  
MERCANTILE  
RECORDS.



KANESHICHI  
WROTE  
NOTHING  
FURTHER  
IN HIS  
JOURNAL,  
EVER  
AGAIN.



BOUGHT  
OUT?



AND  
WHAT I  
FOUND...

...WAS  
THAT THE  
HOKKAIDO  
BUSINESS  
FUJITA  
PETROLEUM  
LTD GOT  
BOUGHT  
OUT SOON  
THEREAFTER.



ZAIZEN  
RYUGORO.



NEEDLESS  
TO SAY,  
THE BUYER  
WAS YOUR  
GREAT-  
GRAND-  
FATHER.



THAT'S  
IMPOSSIBLE.

RYUGORO  
BOUGHT  
OUT A  
HOKKAIDO  
PETROLEUM  
COMPANY?





„THE BUSINESS RIGHTS WERE BOUGHT OUT FROM UNDER THEM, AS 24,000 SHARES OUT OF A TOTAL OF 50,000 SHARES OF FUJITA PETROLEUM LTD WERE PURCHASED FROM THE MARKET AND MAJOR STOCKHOLDERS.

ACCORDING TO THE FUJITA MERCANTILE MAIN OFFICE'S BUSINESS CONFERENCE...

Sign: Fujita Petroleum LTD



AS FAR AS THE MAIN OFFICE OF FUJITA WAS CONCERNED, IT CAME OUT OF NOWHERE. IT WAS TOTALLY UNEXPECTED. IT SAYS THE MANAGERS IN TOKYO WENT INTO A SEVERE STATE OF PANIC.



ALL THE EXECUTIVES WERE LAID OFF, AND THE COMPANY'S NAME WAS CHANGED TO PETROLEUM DEVELOPMENT OF HOKKAIDO.

THE PRESIDENT OF FUJITA PETROLEUM GOT REPLACED BY A MAN CALLED HATTORI, WHO HAD COME ON BOARD.

Sign: Petroleum Development of Hokkaido



RYUGORO DID THAT?

THAT'S HOW FUJITA PETROLEUM GOT COMPLETELY TAKEN OVER.



...BUT I THINK  
RYUSORO AND  
HIS FELLOW  
CONSPIRATOR,  
PRESIDENT HATTORI,  
MANIPULATED THE  
PURCHASE RECEIPTS  
FROM STANDARD  
VACUUM OIL,  
CONFOUNDING THE  
WHEREABOUTS OF  
THE OIL SUPPLY.

IT'S JUST  
MY THEORY  
FROM THIS  
POINT  
FORWARD...



WHEN COMMANDER  
YAMAMOTO ISOROKU  
GAVE HIS TOP-SECRET  
COMMAND, THEY FILLED  
THE OIL DRUMS; A  
CARGO SHIP TOOK  
THE DRUMS FROM  
TOMAKOMAI TO ITURUP  
ISLAND, WHERE THEY  
WERE LOADED ONTO  
AIRCRAFT CARRIERS.

A LARGE  
QUANTITY  
OF OIL WAS  
CONCEALED  
AS THEY  
WAITED FOR  
THE TIME OF  
ATTACK.



THE  
MOBILE UNITS  
RECEIVED THE  
TRANSMISSION  
"CLIMB THE HIGH  
MOUNTAIN 1208" ON  
DECEMBER 2, AND  
THE SURPRISE  
ATTACK WAS  
LAUNCHED ON  
DECEMBER 8.

THE  
ENTIRE FLEET  
HEADED TO  
HAWAII'S  
PEARL  
HARBOR ON  
NOVEMBER  
26, 1941.



BUT THAT  
WAS NEVER  
OPENLY REVEALED.  
BECAUSE IT WAS  
ZAIZEN RYUGORO  
WHO PULLED THE  
STRINGS FROM  
BEHIND THE  
SCENES, USURPED  
THE OIL, AND  
HANDED IT  
OVER TO THE  
MILITARY.

THE ATTACK  
ON PEARL  
HARBOR WAS  
MADE POSSIBLE  
BY OIL THAT  
HAD BEEN IN THE  
POSSESSION OF  
THE FUJITA  
FAMILY.





EVEN RELATED INDUSTRIES WERE STOPPED, ONE AFTER ANOTHER. FORMER FUJITA PETROLEUM WAS DISMANTLED, AND THE POWER OF THE GROUP RAPIDLY WANED.

AFTER THE START OF THE WAR, OIL BECAME A REGULATED PRODUCT; THE BUSINESS CAME UNDER GOVERNMENT CONTROL.



THE CORE OF KANESHIKI'S FORTUNE IN HOKKAIDO WAS LOST, AND KANESHIKI PASSED AWAY IN FEBRUARY OF 1945.

THE VANISHED FUNDS WERE APPROXIMATELY 15 MILLION YEN, WHICH IN MODERN TERMS WOULD BE 50 BILLION YEN.



OF COURSE, I'M KIDDING THAT YOU SHOULD PAY BACK THE 50 BILLION YEN.

BUT I WANTED TO TELL YOU THE WHOLE STORY, SO YOUR FAMILY COULD REPENT OF THE PAST SINCE YOUR GREAT-GRAND-FATHER COMMITTED.



HE MUST'VE GONE TO HIS GRAVE FILLED WITH REGRET.

THE GREAT BUSINESS-MAN WAS DOUBLED-CROSSED.









ALL RYUGORO DID WAS PAY CASH TO PURCHASE FROM THEM.

IT WAS THE STOCKHOLDERS, MANAGERS, AND EXECUTIVES OF FUJITA PETROLEUM THAT LET GO OF TOO MANY SHARES.



THAT'S LEGITIMATE NEGOTIATION. THERE'S NO VIOLATION OF RULES.



BUT HE MUST'VE OFFERED THEM AN EXCEPTIONALLY GOOD DEAL.



SHINJI-SAN'S STORY IS INAPPROPRIATE, THAT RYUGORO BAMBOOZLED AND BROUGHT MISFORTUNE TO THE FUJITA FAMILY.

THERE'S NO REASON TO HOLD THE ZAIZEN FAMILY ACCOUNTABLE.



...KANESHICHI  
MUST'VE  
KNOWN THAT  
HE WOULD  
GET BOUGHT  
OUT BY  
RYUGORO.

MY  
THEORY  
IS...



WHAT  
DO YOU  
MEAN BY  
THAT?



SO WHAT  
WOULD  
RYUGORO  
DO NEXT?  
SURELY  
KANESHICHI  
WOULD'VE  
ANTICIPATED  
THE  
BUYOUT.

HE REFUSED  
TO SELL HIS  
OIL. HE HAD  
STORED IN  
TOMOKONA!,  
RIGHT?



WHICH  
CAN  
ONLY  
MEAN...

YET HE  
DID NOT  
ARRANGE TO  
PREVENT IT,  
MAKING SURE  
SHAREHOLDERS  
WOULDN'T LET  
GO OF THEIR  
SHARES.





I BELIEVE  
KANESCHICHI  
HAD MADE  
UP HIS MIND,  
DEEP IN HIS  
HEART.

...THAT HE  
KNEW THAT  
THE JAPAN-U.S.  
WAR WAS  
INEVITABLE.



HE  
PREFERRED  
TO PASS  
THAT GUILT  
ONTO  
SOMEONE  
OF A NEWER  
GENERATION.

BUT HE  
DIDN'T WANT  
HIS LAST  
DEED IN  
LIFE TO BE  
INSTIGATING  
A WAR.





HIS HUBRIS  
INCREASED  
AS HE WAS  
TOUTED AS A  
GENIUS, AND  
HE INVENTED  
A STRANGE  
PERSONA FOR  
HIMSELF.

THE COMEDY  
OF ERRORS  
STARTED WITH  
YOUR GREAT-  
GRANDFATHER  
RYUGORO  
INVESTING  
WHEN HE  
WAS ONLY  
IN JUNIOR  
HIGH.



THERE'S  
NO PROOF  
OF THAT  
ANYWHERE.

YOU'RE WRONG,  
SHINJI-SAN. IT  
WAS KANESHIKI  
HIMSELF WHO  
ACKNOWLEDGED  
RYUGORO'S  
BRILLIANCE.



WHAT?

BESIDES,  
YOU FOLKS...

AREN'T  
OF THE  
SOCIO-  
ECONOMIC  
CLASS  
CAPABLE OF  
HANDLING  
SUCH  
LARGE  
SUMS OF  
MONEY.



NO... IT'S A  
NECESSARY  
CONCEPT,  
EVEN NOW.



WHAT  
DOES  
THAT  
MEAN?

THAT  
KIND OF  
DISCRIMINATION  
DOESN'T  
HOLD WATER  
NOWADAYS!  
WE DON'T LIVE  
IN FEUDAL  
TIMES ANY  
MORE,



ARE YOU  
SERIOUSLY  
SAYING  
THAT?



JUST  
LIKE WITH  
RYUGORO,  
AT THE TIME  
OF THE  
INCEPTION  
OF WAR.

SMALL MONETARY  
TRANSACTIONS ARE  
INCONSEQUENTIAL.  
THE PROBLEM LIES IN  
SITUATIONS IN WHICH  
ENORMOUS SUMS OF  
MONEY ARE INVOLVED.  
WHEN UNANWARE  
PEOPLE MAKE SUCH  
TRANSACTIONS,  
TROUBLE ALWAYS  
ENSUES.



WHAT  
ARE YOU  
TRYING  
TO SAY?



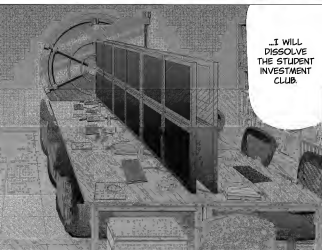


AND  
THEN.

I WILL  
MANAGE  
AND  
HANDLE  
THE FUND  
MYSELF.



THE FUND  
OF 300  
BILLION WILL  
BE MANAGED  
BY THE FUJITA  
FAMILY; THE  
FUJITA FAMILY  
WILL MANAGE  
THE AFFAIRS  
OF DOJUKU  
FROM NOW  
ON.



...I WILL  
DISSOLVE  
THE STUDENT  
INVESTMENT  
CLUB.



ONI-CHAN!  
IS THAT  
WHAT YOU  
HAD IN  
MIND?



D-DIS-  
SOLVE?



WAIT A  
SECOND!  
IS THAT  
THE FUJITA  
FAMILY'S  
PLAN?



IT SHOULD  
BE A RELIEF  
FOR YOU  
STUDENTS.



I AM  
GOING  
TO SET  
MATTERS  
STRAIGHT.

I'M THE  
HEIR.  
MY WILL  
IS THE  
FAMILY'S  
WILL.



YOU'LL BE  
RELEASED  
FROM THE  
RESPONSIBILITIES  
AND PRESSURES  
OF THE  
INVESTMENT  
CLUB; YOU'LL BE  
ABLE TO ENJOY  
STUDIES AND  
CLUB ACTIVITIES  
TOGETHER WITH  
THE NORMAL  
STUDENTS.



IN...



WHEN YOU  
REALLY THINK  
ABOUT IT,  
IT'S PRETTY  
INCONCEIVABLE  
THAT A JUNIOR  
HIGH STUDENT  
WOULD BE  
PLACED IN  
CHARGE OF  
INVESTING 300  
BILLION YEN.

I THINK  
I HAVE TO  
AGREE.

Lindsay







SO YOU DEMAND  
THAT IT CONTINUES.  
YOU WILL RESIST ME  
ABOUT THIS.



I'M NOT  
TALKING  
ABOUT  
AUTHORITY.



IF  
NEED  
BE...



I'M SAYING  
THAT YOU  
SHOULD  
CAREFULLY  
RETHINK  
THE MEANING  
OF THE  
EXISTENCE  
OF THE  
STUDENTS'  
INVESTMENT  
CLUB.



COMPETE?



WE WILL  
COMPETE  
FOR THE  
FINAL  
DECISION



THEN  
LET'S LAY  
THE FATE  
OF THE  
INVESTMENT  
CLUB ON  
THE LINE.



IF YOU  
WIN, I WILL  
LET IT  
CONTINUE.

IF I  
WIN, THE  
INVESTMENT  
CLUB  
WILL BE  
DISSOLVED.

I DON'T  
THINK WE  
REALLY  
SHOULD BE  
COMPETING  
FOR ITS  
DISSOLUTION  
OR  
CONTINUATION.

B-BUT...



INVESTING,  
OF  
COURSE.



BESIDES,  
WHAT  
KIND OF  
COMPETITION  
DO YOU HAVE  
IN MIND?



THAT'S  
TOO LONG  
A TIME. IT'S  
TOO MUCH  
TROUBLE AND  
NOT EXCITING  
ENOUGH.



SUCH  
AS...



I DON'T  
GET IT  
AT ALL.

THEN HOW  
DO WE  
COMPETE?

...BOTH  
OF US  
INVESTING  
THE SAME  
AMOUNT OF  
MONEY AND  
SEEING  
WHO OUT-  
PERFORMED  
THE OTHER  
A YEAR  
FROM NOW?



A THREE-  
ROUND  
MATCH?



HOW  
ABOUT A  
THREE-  
ROUND  
MATCH?



WE'LL COMPARE  
RESULTS IN A  
SHORT ONE OR  
TWO MONTHS.  
WE'LL PLAY  
THREE MATCHES,  
AND THE FIRST  
TO WIN TWICE  
WILL BE THE  
WINNER.

THE  
DECIDING  
FACTOR  
WILL, OF  
COURSE,  
BE WHO  
YIELDS THE  
HIGHEST  
RETURN.



THE FIRST  
TO WIN  
TWO OUT  
OF THREE  
MATCHES  
WILL BE THE  
WINNER.



IT WON'T  
DISTRACT  
ME FROM  
MY SCHOOL  
LIFE, EITHER.

THAT'LL  
DEFINITELY  
QUICKLY  
MAKE  
THINGS  
FINAL...



WE'LL  
DECIDE ON  
A METHOD  
FOR EACH  
MATCH.

THAT'LL BE  
THREE MATCHES  
IN THE SIX  
MONTHS UNTIL  
YOU START  
YOUR SECOND  
YEAR OF  
JUNIOR HIGH.  
THAT'S ONE  
MATCH EVERY  
TWO MONTHS  
OR SO.



YOU  
EXPECT  
ME TO  
PAY  
YOU A  
PENALTY?



BUT  
FIRST...



IF I  
LOSE, THE  
INVESTMENT  
CLUB  
DISSOLVES.  
SO WHAT'S  
AT STAKE  
FOR YOU,  
SHINJI-SAN?

YEAH.



IF YOU  
LOSE,  
SHINJI-SAN,  
WHAT'S  
YOUR  
PENALTY?



THERE HAS TO  
BE SOMETHING  
AT STAKE, OR  
ELSE IT'S NOT  
A COMPETITION.  
YOU HAVE TO  
PROMISE TO  
PAY A PENALTY.



I'M NOT  
GOING  
TO LOSE.  
THAT'S  
IMPOSSIBLE.



YOUR  
GRAND-  
FATHER  
SAID TO  
ME, "IF  
YOU FAIL,  
YOU OWE  
ME YOUR  
LIFE."

THAT'S  
WAY TOO  
EASY.



LET'S SEE.  
HOW ABOUT  
I'LL NEVER  
MEDDLE WITH  
YOUR CLUB  
AGAIN?





TOKYO  
UNIVERSITY?



IF YOU  
LOSE,  
SHINJI-SAN,  
YOU HAVE  
TO GO  
TO A  
UNIVERSITY  
IN JAPAN!

TOKYO  
UNIVERSITY,  
HOW  
ABOUT  
THAT?



...YOU WILL  
ATTEND  
TOKYO  
UNIVERSITY  
UNTIL YOU  
GRADUATE  
FROM  
THERE.

THAT'S RIGHT...  
IF YOU  
LOSE THE  
THREE-ROUND  
INVESTMENT  
CHALLENGE...



WHY  
SHOULD  
I GO TO  
TOKYO  
UNIVERSITY?

CUT THE  
CRAP!



WHY  
WOULD I  
ATTEND  
THERE?

TOKYO  
UNIVERSITY  
IS FOR  
NOTHING  
BUT  
IDIOTS!



I'D NEVER  
RECOVER!

THAT'S  
RIDICULOUS!  
MY LIFE WOULD  
BE RUINED IF I  
HAD TO RETURN  
TO JAPAN TO  
SPEND FOUR  
YEARS AT A  
SHABBY  
UNIVERSITY!



UGH...

I'M ONLY  
THIRTEEN,  
AND I'VE  
BET MY  
LIFE, YOU  
KNOW.





THEN THE  
STAKES  
ARE SET.



ALL  
RIGHT,  
I'LL  
AGREE.

IF I LOSE,  
IT'S TOKYO  
UNIVERSITY  
FOR ME. I  
PROMISE.



YOU GUYS  
ARE STUPID!  
THIS IS JUST  
A TEST  
OF EGOS,  
WITH NOT A  
SHRED OF  
INTELLIGENCE  
BEHIND IT!

THIS IS  
LAME!



OH,  
YES?

TAKASHI.

DO  
WHATEVER  
YOU WANT.  
I'M STAYING  
OUT OF IT.







DISSOLVE THE  
INVESTMENT  
CLUB?!  
WHY WOULD  
YOU MAKE  
A DECISION  
LIKE THAT  
ON YOUR  
OWN?!

NADE-SAN  
WILL  
PROBABLY  
FLY INTO A  
RAGE.



HE'S A  
RATIONAL AND  
COOL PERSON.  
MAYBE HE'LL  
JUST IGNORE  
THE WHOLE  
THINGS.

BUT THE REAL  
PROBLEM IS  
KAMISHIRO-  
SAN. HOW  
WILL HE  
RESPOND?



THAT'S  
PROBABLY  
WHAT WILL  
HAPPEN.  
I THINK  
THAT'LL  
PUT AN END  
TO THE  
MATTER.



OR MAYBE  
THE FUJITA  
FAMILY WILL  
ANNUL THE  
COMPETITION.







...TO  
ACCEPT THE  
CHALLENGE.

YOU'VE  
DONE  
WELL...



KA-  
KAWA-  
SHIRO-  
SAN.



...WHAT A  
JOKER.

THIS  
SO-CALLED  
SHINJI, THE  
FUJITA  
FAMILY  
HEIR...



WHAT DRIVE  
GENERATIONS  
OF STUDENTS  
HAVE  
INCREASED  
DOJUKU'S  
FUNDS AND  
BUILT A SOLID  
FOUNDATION.

HE WANTS TO  
DISSOLVE THE  
INVESTMENT  
CLUB RUN BY  
STUDENTS,  
TO HAVE  
SOMEONE OF  
THE FUJITA  
FAMILY USURP  
AND MANAGE  
OUR FUNDS?



THIS IS NOT  
THE TIME FOR  
SOMEONE FROM  
THE FUJITA  
FAMILY TO  
TAKE OVER!

THIS SCHOOL  
HAS BEEN  
SUPPORTED  
FOR 130  
YEARS BY ITS  
STUDENTS.



WE CAN'T  
LET SOME  
LITTLE LORD  
FAINTLEARDY  
BROUGHT UP  
IN A WEALTHY  
AMERICAN  
HOUSEHOLD  
DO AS HE  
PLEASES.

OUR  
PREDECESSORS  
CONSTRUCTED  
THE INVESTMENT  
CLUB WITH  
THEIR BLOOD,  
SWEAT, AND  
TEARS.









...ARE  
ENGAGED  
IN A GREAT  
BATTLE, WITH  
THE FATE OF  
DOJUKU AT  
STAKE!

THIS TRULY  
IS A BATTLE  
OF THE NEW  
GENERATION!

RYUGORO  
CREATED AND  
DEVELOPED THE  
STUDENTS'  
INVESTMENT CLUB,  
AND KANESHICHI  
ESTABLISHED  
DOJUKU. NOW  
RYUGORO'S  
GREAT-GRANDSON  
AND KANESHICHI'S  
GREAT GREAT  
GRANDSON.







THE  
CHILDREN  
WILL  
EVENTUALLY  
HAVE TO  
LEARN OF  
THESE  
THINGS.

ISHIDA,  
NO NEED  
FOR  
YOU TO  
APOLO-  
GIZE.



I  
SHOULD  
HAVE BEEN  
MORE  
CAREFUL  
WITH MY  
KEYS.

I AM  
TERRIBLY  
SORRY.



I HAVE GIVEN UP ON COUNTING ON HIM.

HE HAS GONE THE PATH OF MUSIC, AND REFUSES TO BE MY HEIR.

EVEN IF YOUR FATHER HAS NO INTEREST IN HIM.



BESIDES, IT IS GOOD FOR BOTH OF YOU TO LEARN ABOUT KANESHIOH!



THAT WOULD BE YOU.

SUCH BEING THE CASE, THE SUCCESSOR TO THE FUJITA FAMILY'S FORTUNE WILL HAVE TO BE MY GRANDSON, SHINJI.



I AM READY TO TAKE ON THE RESPONSIBILITY.

YES.



CLEAN UP? WHAT?



...THERE IS SOMETHING I WOULD LIKE TO CLEAN UP.

IN REGARDS TO THIS...



DOJUKU?



DOJUKU  
ACADEMY IN  
HOKKAIDO.



I WANT  
TO DISSOLVE  
THE STUDENT  
INVESTMENT CLUB.  
I WANT TO ARRANGE  
IT SO THAT THE  
SCHOOL'S FINANCIAL  
MANAGEMENT WILL  
BE DONE DIRECTLY  
BY THE FUJITA  
FAMILY.

YES...



BUT  
TIMES  
HAVE  
CHANGED.  
THE  
SCHOOL  
HAS LONG  
SUCCEEDED  
IN ITS  
MISSION.



THAT WAS  
KANESHIKHI'S  
PHILOSOPHY.  
WE MUST  
RESPECT THE  
WILL OF THE  
SCHOOL'S  
CREATOR.

"LET  
CHILDREN  
INVEST."





...



WE MUST  
PREPARED  
FOR THE  
NEW AGE  
THAT IS TO  
COME.

IN ORDER  
TO DO THAT,  
WE HAVE TO  
CONSOLIDATE  
ALL FINANCES  
OF THE  
FUJITA  
FAMILY, AS  
SOON AS  
POSSIBLE.



TO BE  
FRANK, I  
THINK YOUR  
STYLE OF  
INVESTING  
IS NOT  
AGGRESSIVE  
ENOUGH.



I AM NOT  
PASSING  
JUDGMENT.  
I AM  
SYMPATHIZING.

DO  
YOU?



CERTAIN  
WAYS OF  
THINKING  
ABOUT  
INVESTMENTS  
HAVE NEVER  
TAKEN ROOT  
IN JAPAN.

BACK IN  
YOUR DAY,  
GRANDFATHER,  
IT WAS  
TOPMOST  
PRIORITY TO  
MAKE SURE  
FUNDS NEVER  
GOT SCARCE,  
TO MAINTAIN  
THEM.



NOW IS  
THE TIME TO  
AGGRESSIVELY  
UTILIZE  
ALL OUR  
CAPITAL AND  
TRANSFORM  
JAPAN INTO  
A GENUINE  
INVESTOR  
NATION.

BUT IN RECENT  
TIMES, ATTITUDES  
ABOUT INVESTING  
HAVE BEGUN TO  
CHANGE. PEOPLE  
ARE MORE  
MOTIVATED TO  
REVIVE THE  
ECONOMY  
THROUGH  
INVESTING.



THANK  
YOU  
VERY  
MUCH.



DO AS  
YOU  
WISH.

I UNDER-  
STAND  
WHAT YOU  
MEAN.



I HAVE  
ALREADY  
TAKEN  
CARE OF  
THAT.



PARTICU-  
LARLY THE  
CURRENT  
STUDENTS  
OF THE  
CLUB. HOW  
WELL THEY  
READY?

NEVERTHELESS,  
YOU WILL HAVE  
TO PROVIDE  
A SUFFICIENT  
EXPLANATION  
TO ALL  
CONCERNED.



I JUST  
RECEIVED AN  
E-MAIL FROM  
ZAIZEN TAKASHI  
THAT THE  
CAPTAIN OF THE  
INVESTMENT  
CLUB HAS  
ACCEPTED THE  
CHALLENGE.

I HAVE  
PROPOSED A  
BEST-OF-THREE  
COMPETITION,  
THE STAKES  
BEING THE  
CONTINUATION  
OF THE  
INVESTMENT  
CLUB.



WITH  
ZAIZEN  
TAKASHI.

A  
BEST-OF-  
THREE  
COMPETI-  
TION?



I WILL  
ASSUREDLY  
WIN THE  
BEST-OF-  
THREE  
MATCH  
AGAINST  
ZAIZEN  
TAKASHI.

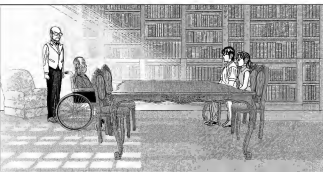
HAVE  
NO  
FEAR.



I HEARD  
YOU WERE  
TOGETHER  
WITH HIM  
THE PAST  
FEW DAYS.  
SO THAT'S  
WHAT  
YOU'VE  
BEEN  
UP TO.

I SEE.







THE  
INVESTMENT  
CLUB AND  
THE FUJITA  
FAMILY  
SHOULD  
NOT BE IN  
CONFLICT!

KA-  
KAMISHIRO-  
SAN, YOU  
MUST STOP  
THIS!



IS THE  
MASTER  
HAS?



HE  
SAID THE  
MASTER OF  
THE FUJITA  
FAMILY HAS  
ACKNOWLEDG-  
ED THE  
COMPETITION.

HOWEVER,  
WE JUST  
RECEIVED  
SHINJI'S  
E-MAIL.



BUT...  
WHAT IF  
ZAIZEN-KUN  
LOSES?



THE FUJITA  
FAMILY  
IS IN  
AGREEMENT  
WITH THE  
DECISION.

IT  
CAN'T  
BE...  
I CAN'T  
BELIEVE  
IT.



THAT'S  
THE  
CONDITION,  
AFTER  
ALL.

THEN THE  
ENTIRETY  
OF OUR  
CAPITAL  
WILL BE  
HANDLED  
OVER TO  
THEM.



HE  
CONSIDERS  
THE IDEA  
QUITE AN  
INSULT.  
THAT'S  
WHAT I'VE  
HEARD.

TOKYO  
UNIVERSITY?



THEN  
HE'LL  
HAVE TO  
ATTEND  
TOKYO  
UNIVERSITY.

AND  
WHAT IF  
SHINJI-  
SAMA  
LOSES?



WHAT?  
BUT...



EITHER WAY,  
ZEN-SAN,  
YOU'VE GOT  
NOTHING  
TO LOSE.



...YOU'D  
ONLY BE  
FREED  
FROM THE  
PRESSURE  
OF HAVING  
TO BE THE  
KEEPER OF  
SECRETS, AS  
YOU'VE BEEN  
FOR ALL  
THESE YEARS.

EVEN IF  
ZAIZEN  
LOST...



THEN  
I'M  
SORRY.

I SEE...



YOU  
FAIL TO  
UNDERSTAND  
ME,  
KAMISHIRO-  
SAN.

I DON'T  
WANT  
THAT...







THAT  
BRAND  
NEW TEA  
BECAME  
A HIT.

I WAS  
GLAD THE  
STOCK I  
BOUGHT  
LAST WEEK  
WENT  
UP 15%.



WE HAVE  
TO MAKE  
SURE TO  
SELL AT  
THE RIGHT  
TIME.

BUT  
THERE'S  
LOTS OF  
COMPETITION  
IN THAT  
FIELD,  
SO IT'LL  
HIT ITS  
CEILING  
SOON.



IT'S  
GONE  
UP  
AGAIN  
TODAY,  
TOO.

SAKURA-  
CHAN IS  
AT 20%,  
NORI-CHAN  
AT 25%.



IT'S  
DIFFICULT  
TO DECIDE  
WHEN  
THE BEST  
TIME IS TO  
SELL.

BUYING  
IS EASY.  
SELLING  
IS HARD.



BUT  
YOU JUST  
WANT  
TO KNOW,  
YOU KNOW  
HOW THAT  
IS...

THEN  
DON'T  
FOLLOW  
IT AFTER  
YOU'VE  
SOLD.

FOR ME,  
TOO.  
BECAUSE  
WHEN IT  
GOES UP  
AFTER  
SELLING, I  
FACE-PALM  
MYSELF.



YEAH.



HEY, SIS, YOU HAVEN'T WORN YOUR RECRUITING SUIT LATELY.



WHAT, REALLY?

With a  
LITTLE  
LUCK!





YOU'LL  
LEARN  
HOW  
IT IS.

YOU'RE  
NOT  
EVEN  
AN  
ADULT  
YET.



YOU  
CAN  
TELL  
ME.  
COME  
ON.



WHAT  
DOES  
IT  
MATTER?  
THAT'S  
NONE  
OF  
YOUR  
BUSINESS.



IT'D  
BE  
TOO  
MUCH  
TROUBLE  
TO  
EXPLAIN  
IT.



SINCE  
SHE'S  
NOT  
TELLING  
ME, IT'S  
PROBABLY  
NOT A  
MAJOR  
CORPORATION.

STINGY...



I ALSO  
KNOW  
YOU'RE  
MAKING  
A DECENT  
PROFIT.

I KNOW  
YOU'RE  
INVESTING  
IN STOCKS.



...AND EASILY  
GET HIRED  
BY A WELL-  
KNOWN  
CORPORATION.



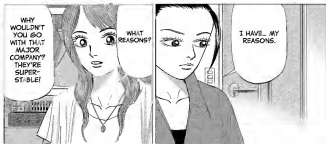
SO IT'S STRANGE  
SINCE SHE'S  
STUDYING STOCKS,  
SHE SHOULD  
BE ABUNDANT IN  
FINANCIAL  
KNOWLEDGE,  
WHICH MEANS SHE  
WOULD BE WAY  
AHEAD OF RIVAL  
STUDENTS...



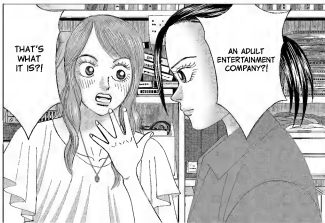
I HEARD  
THE  
NEWS,  
HIROKO!



I'M GLAD  
I CAN  
FINALLY  
DROP IN.











IS DMM  
REALLY  
AN ADULT  
ENTERTAINMENT  
COMPANY?

THEY  
STREAM  
ADULT  
VIDEOS.  
ARE YOU  
REALLY  
GOING  
TO WORK  
FOR THEM,  
SENPAI?



THAT  
SOUNDS  
WAY TOO  
RISKY.

WOW...  
ARE YOU  
SURE  
ABOUT  
THIS?



I SHOULDN'T  
HAVE TOLD  
THEM...

CRAP...





IT'S A  
WASTE OF  
TIME TO  
EVEN TRY.



I CAN TRY  
TO EXPLAIN IT  
TO THEM UNTIL  
I'M BLUE IN THE  
FACE, BUT THEY  
STILL WON'T  
UNDERSTAND.



HIROKO-  
SENPAI!!



OH,  
SAWA-  
MATSU-  
KUN.

WHAT'S  
UP?









IS THAT  
REALLY  
WHAT I  
WANT?  
I'VE BEEN  
GRAPPLING  
WITH  
QUESTIONS  
LIKE THAT  
LATELY.

BUT THEN  
AGAIN, DOES  
WORKING FOR  
A MAJOR  
CORPORATION  
EQUAL A  
GOOD LIFE?



I FIGURED  
THERE MUST  
BE MORE TO  
IT.. SO I HAD  
TO HEAR THE  
REASON WHY.

SO WHEN  
YOU SAID YOU  
ABANDONED  
THE IDEA OF  
WORKING FOR  
A FIRST-RATE  
CORPORATION  
IN FAVOR OF  
DMN, IT REALLY  
GOT TO ME.



YES,  
PLEASE  
DO.

SINCE  
YOU PUT  
IT THAT  
WAY, I'LL  
TELL YOU  
HOW I  
MADE THE  
CHOICE.



I DON'T  
KNOW IF  
ANYTHING I  
TELL YOU  
WILL BE  
OF ANY  
INFORMATIVE  
USE,  
SAWAMATSU-  
KUN.



IT'S  
IMPORTANT  
FOR ME  
TO HEAR  
STORIES OF  
PEOPLE'S  
EXPERIENCES.

I'LL  
BE THE  
JUDGE  
OF THAT.







THAT WAS  
MY WINNING  
TICKET.  
I PLAYED THE  
"I'M MORE  
COMPETENT  
THAN THESE  
OTHER  
STUDENTS"  
CARD.

I BARRAGED  
THE SCREENING  
COMMITTEE WITH  
FINANCIAL  
KNOWLEDGE I  
HAD ACQUIRED  
FROM BUYING  
AND SELLING  
STOCKS, BASED  
ON THE PERTINENT  
DATA I HAD  
INVESTIGATED.



I SEE...



THE  
BOTTOM  
LINE WAS,  
I HAD  
DONE MY  
HOME-  
WORK.



THEN,  
SUDDENLY,  
SOMETHING  
HAPPENED.



OR SO I  
THOUGHT,  
BREATHING  
A SIGH OF  
RELIEF.

SO  
MY JOB-  
HUNTING  
DAYS WERE  
OVER.



DMM  
FX...  
HMM.

MAKE GREAT PLANS  
FOR YOUR MONEY.

**DMM FX**

立DMM.com証券

証券(証券登録番号: 関東財務局長(金商)第1629号)

I SAW A  
COMMERCIAL  
ON  
TELEVISION  
FOR DMM  
FX.

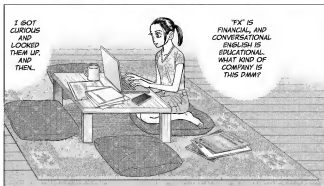


DMM...  
HUH?



THAT SAME  
DAY, I SAW  
ANOTHER  
COMMERCIAL:  
DMM  
CONVERSATIONAL  
ENGLISH.

**DMM CONVERSATIONAL  
ENGLISH**



I GOT  
CURIOUS  
AND  
LOOKED  
THEM UP,  
AND THEN.

"FX" IS  
FINANCIAL, AND  
CONVERSATIONAL  
ENGLISH IS  
EDUCATIONAL.  
WHAT KIND OF  
COMPANY IS  
THIS DMM?





IT WAS FINE!  
BESIDES, IF THEY  
SHOOED ME AWAY,  
I HAD NOTHING  
TO LOSE. ANY  
COMPANY THAT  
CHASES OUT  
VISITING  
STUDENTS  
ISN'T WORTH ITS  
SALT, ANYWAY.

YOU DIDN'T  
MAKE AN  
APPOINTMENT  
AND JUST  
SHOWED UP  
AT THEIR  
DOOR?  
ISN'T THAT  
IMPROPER?



IT WAS AN  
AMAZINGLY  
STYLISH  
OFFICE. I  
WAS TREATED  
POLITELY.

I FIGURED  
THE MAIN  
OFFICE OF  
DMM WOULD  
BE BUSY  
DURING THE  
DAY, SO I  
WENT DURING  
QUIETER  
HOURS AT  
DUSK.



AND  
LO AND  
BEHOLD,  
WHO  
SHOWS  
UP...

I HAD  
TO WAIT A  
WHILE FOR  
"SOMEONE  
IN THE  
COMPANY"  
TO MEET  
WITH ME.



I'M SORRY  
TO HAVE  
DROPPED  
IN UNAN-  
NOUNCED.



HI,  
THERE!



I  
APPRECIATE  
IT.



HERE'S MY  
BUSINESS  
CARD.

IT'S FINE.  
I HEARD  
A LADY  
COLLEGE  
STUDENT  
WAS  
VISITING,  
SO I CAME  
TO MEET  
YOU.




WHAT?



THIS WAS  
KAMEYAMA  
KEISHI-SAN,  
CHAIRMAN  
OF DMM!

I  
COULDN'T  
BELIEVE  
IT!





DMM ISN'T LISTED IN THE STOCK EXCHANGE, SO THERE ISN'T MUCH INFORMATION IN THE OPEN ABOUT THE COMPANY. AS A RESULT, I HAD NO IDEA WHAT QUESTIONS TO ASK.

I HAD NO IDEA WHAT QUESTIONS TO ASK THE CHAIRMAN.



UHM... I'D LIKE TO KNOW HOW YOUR COMPANY WAS CREATED, CHAIRMAN.



SO I JUST WINDED IT AND ASKED HIM HOW THE COMPANY GOT STARTED.



WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST LINE OF WORK?

WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG? WHEN YOU STARTED DOING BUSINESS?



WHERE DO I START?

HOW IT WAS CREATED... HMM...



STREET  
VENDOR?



NOT  
YAKUZA,  
MORE  
LIKE A  
HIPPIE.



STREET  
VENDOR,  
LIKE  
THE...



I STARTED  
AS A STREET  
VENDOR.



I SOLD  
PENDANTS  
AND KEY  
HOLDERS  
I HAD  
HANDMADE  
MYSELF.

I DROPPED  
OUT OF TRADE  
SCHOOL AND  
STARTED  
PEDDLING STUFF  
OFF A MAT,  
AT TAKESHITA  
STREET IN  
HARAJAKU, FOR  
EXAMPLE.





I  
SOLD AT  
FESTIVALS  
AROUND  
THE  
COUNTRY,  
TOO.

SURE.  
IT WAS  
TOUGH,  
BUT I  
SOLD  
QUITE A  
LOT OF  
THEM.



PARDON ME  
FOR ASKING,  
BUT DID YOU  
MAKE A  
LIVING DO  
THAT?

PENDANTS  
AND KEY  
HOLDERS?



MY FAMILY  
RAN A "FRUITS  
PARLOR" AND A  
KARAOKE PLACE  
IN A SHOPPING  
DISTRICT. THEY  
HAD AN OPEN  
ROOM ON  
THEIR SECOND  
FLOOR.

I GOT TIRED  
OF STREET  
PEDDLING,  
SO I WENT  
BACK TO MY  
PARENTS'  
HOME IN  
ISHIKAWA  
PREFECTURE.



I PURCHASED  
FIVE MAHJONG  
TABLES AND  
STARTED A  
MAHJONG  
PARLOR.

...SO I  
THOUGHT  
I'D TRY  
SOMETHING  
THERE.



AFTER I  
ACCUMLATED  
A LITTLE CAPITAL,  
I STARTED A  
POOL BAR. THEN  
I OPENED A  
TRAVEL AGENCY  
AND A PC  
WHOLESALE  
STORE.

IT BECAME A  
GATHERING  
PLACE FOR THE  
LOCAL BORED  
AND ELDERLY.  
IT GOT QUITE  
POPULAR,  
ACTUALLY.



THAT'S  
HOW  
BUSINESS  
IS. ONLY  
1 OUT  
OF 10  
SUCCEEDS.

NOT  
ALL OF  
THE  
TIME.



...WERE YOU  
SUCCESSFUL,  
CHANGING  
FROM ONE  
BUSINESS TO  
THE NEXT?

UM... IF  
I MAY...



...VIDEO  
RENTAL  
SHOPS  
STARTED  
GETTING  
POPULAR  
AROUND THE  
WORLD. ONE  
EVEN OPENED  
IN OUR  
PODUNK  
COUNTRYSIDE.

AROUND  
THAT  
TIME...



HE'S KIND  
OF LACK-  
ADAISICAL.

I SEE...



THEY HAD  
A WOODEN  
BILLBOARD FOR  
A SIGN AT FIRST,  
BUT EVENTUALLY  
THEIR STORE  
NAME WAS IN  
LIGHTS, AND  
THEIR PARKING  
LOT WAS ALWAYS  
FULL.

I  
DIDN'T  
THINK MUCH  
ABOUT IT AT  
FIRST, THINK-  
ING: "WHO'D  
WANT TO  
RENT THIS  
STUFF?"

Sign: Video Rental



SO IS  
THAT  
WHY  
YOU.



SO.

I  
REALIZED  
RENTING  
VIDEOS  
MUST BE  
LUCRATIVE.



I MADE MONEY  
HAND OVER FIST,  
SO I EXPANDED TO  
OTHER SHOPS. I  
WAS REJOICING IN  
THE SUCCESS OF  
MY BUSINESS.

YEAH. I  
THOUGHT,  
"THIS COULD  
WORK," AND  
STARTED  
A VIDEO  
RENTAL  
SHOP RIGHT  
AWAY.







IN THAT  
STORY,  
THE MAIN  
CHARACTER  
GOES  
TO THE  
FUTURE.

BY  
THE TIME MY  
BUSINESS HAD  
EXPANDED TO  
THREE VIDEO  
RENTAL SHOPS,  
BACK TO THE  
FUTURE PART II  
CAME OUT, AND I  
WENT TO SEE IT  
IN A MOVIE  
THEATER.

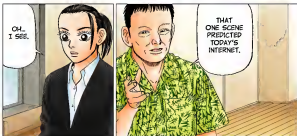


THE  
MOMENT I  
SAW THAT  
SCENE, A  
THOUGHT  
CROSSED  
MY MIND:

THERE WAS A  
SCENE IN THE  
MOVIE WHERE  
ANYTHING A  
PERSON WANTED  
TO WATCH WOULD  
GET STREAMED  
FROM SOMEWHERE  
ONTO A TELEVISION  
SCREEN IN THEIR  
ROOM.

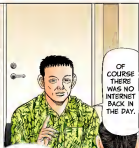
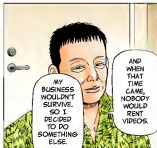


"AH... THERE  
WON'T BE  
VIDEO  
RENTAL  
SHOPS  
IN THE  
FUTURE."



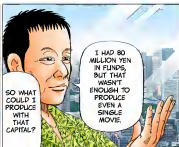
OH...  
I SEE.

THAT  
ONE SCENE  
PREDICTED  
TODAY'S  
INTERNET.





ADULT  
VIDEOS...



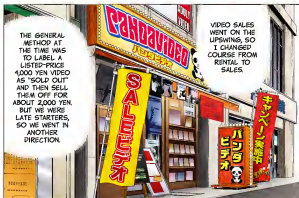
SO WHAT  
COULD I  
PRODUCE  
WITH  
THAT  
CAPITAL?

I HAD 80  
MILLION YEN  
IN FUNDS,  
BUT THAT  
WASN'T  
ENOUGH TO  
PRODUCE  
EVEN A  
SINGLE  
MOVIE



SO I  
DISPATCHED  
A MANAGER  
TO TOKYO TO  
PURCHASE  
COPYRIGHTS  
FOR VIDEO  
PRODUCTIONS.  
I THEN SOLD  
THE VIDEOS  
WHOLESALE TO  
VIDEO RENTAL  
SHOPS.

THAT'S  
RIGHT!



THE GENERAL  
METHOD AT  
THE TIME WAS  
TO LABEL A  
LISTED-PRICE  
4,000 YEN VIDEO  
AS "SOLD OUT"  
AND THEN SELL  
THEM OFF FOR  
ABOUT 2,000 YEN.  
BUT WE WERE  
LATE STARTERS,  
SO WE WENT IN  
ANOTHER  
DIRECTION.

VIDEO SALES  
WENT ON THE  
UPSWING, SO  
I CHANGED  
COURSE FROM  
RENTAL TO  
SALES.





IF EIGHTY  
VIDEOS CAME  
BACK, THAT  
MEANT TWENTY  
GOT SOLD.  
IT WAS A  
COMMISSION  
MODEL OF  
SALES THAT  
NEEDED NO  
VENDOR  
MIDDLEMAN.

I WOULD SHIP  
A HUNDRED  
VIDEOS TO A  
SHOP WITH THE  
DEAL THAT  
THEY'D SEND  
BACK THE  
VIDEOS THAT  
DIDN'T SELL  
AFTER THREE  
MONTHS.



EXACTLY.  
THE SHOPS  
HAD NO RISK  
OF BEING  
STUCK WITH  
UNSOLD  
STOCK, SO  
THEY'D SHELV  
THOSE VIDEOS  
WITHOUT  
WORRY.

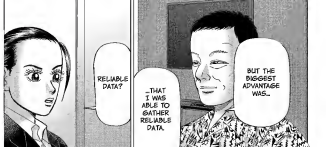


THAT  
COMMISSION  
MODEL  
SOUNDS  
GOOD FOR  
THE SHOPS,  
AS WELL.



BUT BASED ON  
MY METHOD, THE  
PROPRIETOR  
COULD SAFELY  
PLACE ALL 100  
VIDEOS ON THE  
STORE SHELF.

THAT METHOD  
INVERTED THE  
TROUBLE OF  
HAVING TO  
SELECT STOCK.  
ORDINARILY A  
SHOP'S  
PROPRIETOR  
WOULD ONLY  
STOCK MOVIES  
HE OR SHE  
THOUGHT  
WOULD  
SELL.



RELIABLE  
DATA?

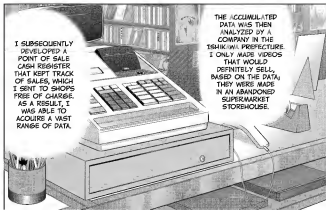
...THAT  
I WAS  
ABLE TO  
GATHER  
RELIABLE  
DATA.

BUT THE  
BIGGEST  
ADVANTAGE  
WAS...



SO, THANKS  
TO THE  
COMMISSION  
METHOD,  
I WAS ABLE  
TO ACQUIRE  
QUANTITATIVELY  
SOLID DATA  
ABOUT SALES  
WITH RESPECT  
TO THE KINDS  
OF MOVIES AND  
GENRES.

THE MODEL  
BEFORE THEN  
INVOLVED  
SENDING VIDEOS  
TO SHOPS UNTIL  
THEY SOLD OUT.  
BUT SELLERS  
WERE IN THE DARK  
ABOUT WHAT  
KIND OF  
PRODUCTS WERE  
SELLING.



I SUBSEQUENTLY  
DEVELOPED A  
POINT OF SALE  
CASH REGISTER  
THAT KEPT TRACK  
OF SALES, WHICH  
I SENT TO SHOPS  
FREE OF CHARGE.  
AS A RESULT, I  
WAS ABLE TO  
ACQUIRE A VAST  
RANGE OF DATA.

THE ACCUMULATED  
DATA WAS THEN  
ANALYZED BY A  
COMPANY IN THE  
ISHIKAWA PREFECTURE.  
I ONLY MADE VIDEOS  
THAT WOULD  
DEFINITELY SELL,  
BASED ON THE DATA.  
THEY WERE MADE  
IN AN ABANDONED  
SUPERMARKET  
STOREHOUSE.



PHYSICAL  
DISTRIBUTION AND  
PRODUCTION COSTS  
WENT DOWN. AS A  
RESULT, CAPITAL FOR  
PRODUCTION WENT  
UP. I WAS ABLE TO  
PROVIDE HIGHER  
COMPENSATION TO  
ON-SITE STAFF THAN  
ANY OTHER  
COMPETITOR, AND  
I WAS ABLE TO  
PRODUCE  
HIGHER-QUALITY  
MATERIAL.

THIS  
IS HOW A  
LUCRATIVE  
BUSINESS  
NETWORK  
WAS BORN!

**DMM**

VICTORY  
WAS MINE!  
MY MODEL  
WAS  
PERFECTED!

**DMM**

WHEN  
PRODUCTS  
ARE GOOD,  
THEY SELL!  
SHARES  
INCREASE!

**DMM**

**DMM**

**DMM**





...THAN  
THE RISK  
OF NOT  
TAKING  
RISKS.

THERE'S  
NOTHING  
SCARIER  
TO A  
BUSINESS...

I  
GET  
IT...

AH...

IT  
CARRIED  
SO MUCH  
WEIGHT  
WHEN SAID  
WITH A  
SMILING  
FACE.

YEAH.

WHAT  
A COOL  
THING  
TO SAY.

THAT'S  
AWESOME.

THIS IS  
WHAT HE  
SAID  
NEXT!





HUH?

AFTER  
YOU  
GRADUATE  
FROM  
COLLEGE.



COME  
TO OUR  
COMPANY  
IF YOU  
LIKE.



YOU TOOK  
INTEREST  
IN MY  
COMPANY,  
CAME FOR  
A VISIT, AND  
ACQUIRED  
INFORMATION  
FROM ME.

THAT  
ACTION  
ALONE  
PASSES  
THE  
TEST!



BUT I  
HAVEN'T  
HAD A  
FORMAL  
INTERVIEW  
YET.



BEING  
HERE IS  
QUALIFICA-  
TION  
ENOUGH.

YOU  
DON'T  
NEED  
IT.



WHAT?  
UNOFFICIALLY  
HIRED? IS HE  
SERIOUS?



YOU'RE  
UNOFFI-  
CIALLY  
HIRED  
FOR  
NOW.







A BUSINESS  
INVESTMENT  
COMPANY?



IT'S A  
BUSINESS  
INVEST-  
MENT  
COMPANY.



THIS, IN  
TURN, FUNDS  
PEOPLE AND  
VARIOUS  
BUSINESSES.

ON ONE  
HAND, THEY  
HAVE THE  
VERSATILE  
COMMODITY  
OF ADULT  
ENTERTAIN-  
MENT.



NEW IDEAS AND  
ENJOYMENT KEEP  
INCREASING.

MULTIFARIOUS  
BUSINESSES  
INTERMINGLE  
WITHIN A  
SINGLE  
COMPANY.



JUST LIKE  
A HUGE  
AMUSEMENT  
PARK!



...AND TO  
THOROUGHLY  
HAVE FUN.

I CAME TO  
UNDERSTAND  
WHAT WORK  
SHOULD BE:  
TO HAVE  
EXCITEMENT  
AND  
THRILLS...



I  
DUNNO  
ABOUT  
THAT.



I DON'T  
AGREE  
WITH  
YOU.





NOW THAT I'VE HEARD YOUR STORY, HIROKO-SAN, I'VE MADE A CLEAR DECISION.



WHAT'S WRONG WITH IT?



IF YOU WORK FOR A PLACE LIKE THAT, YOU WON'T HAVE MUCH TO DO, AND THE CHANCES FOR PROMOTION WILL COME EXCRUCIATINGLY SLOWLY.



YOU CAN BE FLIP ABOUT I.T. VENTURES AND SAY THEY HAVE NO HISTORY TO SPEAK OF, THEY HAVE FEW VESTED RIGHTS, BUT THEY HAVE YOUNG EMPLOYEES, AND THEY HAVE A LOT OF FREEDOM TO START NEW BUSINESSES.

